

STUDENTS' LETTER.

SCALE HOW,
AMBLESIDE,
JULY 6TH, 1903.

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

Although the term has simply flown, it seems a very long time since the Conference, when we had such a delightful time all together. We no longer feel as if we were writing to our Seniors; those few days seem to have drawn us nearer to all old students.

We Seniors are feeling sorrowful, that this our last summer term here, is so nearly at its close. What a source of joy it will always be to look back upon! We were revelling in the most gorgeous weather when the rest of England was groaning over its floods, and although that spell has been succeeded by colder weather, it has not been persistently rainy.

Our literary evenings have been continued all through the term, the reading of plays alternating with them. We have had pleasant evenings with Macaulay, Charles Lamb and Coleridge.

We have also started a poetry society to which we practically all belong, Seniors and Juniors, and very happy social evenings we spend, once a fortnight, on Saturdays. The weather has prevented our sitting out-of-doors each time, so we have retired to the Millet-room—the *house* is reported to be wonderfully peaceful on these occasions—and there we sit and do our mending, while we take it in turns to recite what we have learnt.

We all try to learn a little every day, and it is marvellous how easy we find it to spare ten minutes. Each chooses her own poem, so we have great variety: some have attempted and learnt long poems such as "Lycidas," "The Ode to Immortality," and "Gray's Elegy." We also read one of Browning's poems during the fortnight, and prepare ourselves for it by reading at the meeting Mrs. Sutherland

Orr's commentary on it from her "Works of Robert Browning." We have read "Andrea del Sarto" and "The Flight of the Duchess." At the meeting we talk a little about them, and some learn extracts which have struck them as particularly fine. We close with an extract from "Alice at Scale How," one of which we send you. We all look forward to these happy family evenings, and rejoice in the virtuous feelings caused by the mended garments.

A few of us have started a fresh-water aquarium, a source of interest to all. It consists of a huge bell jar, on a stand, and we have in it minnows and other kinds of fish, water-lovers, snails, tadpoles, &c., and a wee frog or two disport themselves on a large lily leaf floating on the surface.

We have had four delightful Geography Walks, the main purpose of them being to study direction and distance. We have followed the course of the Stock, Scandale Beck, and Rydal Beck. Miss Williams has promised to take the most able-bodied of us round Fairfield Basin, and we are hoping for a fine day next Thursday afternoon.

The Juniors have been walking the school, and this week they begin to take part in its management. We shall not, however, entirely break off our connection with it till next term.

This year we are reading Oscar Browning's "Educational Theories," instead of Quick.

A few weeks ago Canon Gorton came and gave us a lecture on "In Memoriam," shewing us the general scheme and reading passages illustrative of it. We found it extremely interesting and helpful.

We also had a visit from Mr. Algernon Brown of the Siamese Legation, whose work it is to superintend the education of the Siamese sent over to England. He was particularly interested in the House of Education methods. The Juniors gave another representation of the "Midsummer Night's Dream" while he was here.

We now have our various holiday posts allotted to us, and the last few weeks have brought daily excitement, as one by one we have been summoned to the Drawing-room. Three of us go to Scotland, the majority to the South of England. We know that we have your sympathy and good wishes now we are entering upon our new work.

The gardens are looking very tidy, if plants are somewhat scarce. Mddle. Mottu has been setting us a splendid example, and is keenly enthusiastic about procuring plants, not only for her own special bed, *Labiatae*, but for others also.

The sports have been one of the events of the term, and were capital fun. One of the competitions was to pace a prescribed distance, and calculate how much it was in yards, each ascertaining her own pace beforehand. It was most amusing to see the competitors come in, two at a time, especially those who were taking yard paces to avoid calculation. Miss Williams was one of the latter, and she was the most successful, being within a foot of the right measurement. This was of course as it should have been, but she really should not have told us that she had forgotten to count altogether until she had gone some distance, and then made a guess at the number taken. Miss Williams was also successful in the amusing staff hat-trimming competition. Photos. of both events may be obtained any time next term for 2½d.

Did you ever have the pacing craze when you were here? It is really an excellent way of getting a quiet walk, for conversation is out of the question.

Another of the events was a sensory competition. The competitors entered the circle one by one, blind-fold, and were tested as to taste, smell, and touch with very simple things. The smell of vinegar proved a stumbling block to many, and lemon was variously described as lemonade, salts of lemon, cold cream; starch was pronounced gravel, pebbles. Miss Kitching alone was successful in naming everything correctly.

The children's party comes off on Saturday next. We thank you for your letter issued in the last number, and we shall, of course, all wish to become members of the Students' Association when we leave.

Very truly yours,

THE PRESENT STUDENTS.

GARDEN NOTES.

We feel sure that there are many ex-students who would be very glad to give us a helping hand towards filling up the Botanical Gardens. Most of the plants which we can find in this part of the country, have been put in their respective beds, but there are still very many vacancies which are hard to fill. Would those ex-students who are fortunate enough to be in country places kindly look through the following list of plants we still want, and send us any they could? We should all be most grateful; it would also be so nice to feel that we were one and all working towards the filling up of the beds which Mr. Tuckwell so kindly and so ably planned out for us.

RANUNCULACEÆ.

<i>Adonis vernalis</i>	spring pheasant's eye
<i>Helleborus foeticulus</i>	stinking hellebore
<i>Delphinium ajacis</i>	larkspur
<i>Actaea spicata</i>	baneberry
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	love in a mist
<i>Epihedium alpinum</i>	alpine barren wort

PAVERACEÆ.

<i>Papava somniferum</i>	opium poppy
<i>Eschschotzia californica</i>	
<i>Bicconia cordifolia</i>	

BERBERIDÆ.

<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	barberry
,, <i>Darwinii</i>	"
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	"
,, <i>hybrida</i>	"

FUMARIACEÆ.

<i>Dillytra spectabilis</i>
